



Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first and second paragraphs, beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following paragraphs:

Field of the Invention**Cross Reference to Related Applications**

This application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of the filing date of copending U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/113,871 filed on December 23, 1998, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development

The invention described in this application was developed in part with Federal funding (grant number HL37510) from the National Institutes of Health. The Federal Government may have rights to the claimed invention.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a novel member of the Hyaluronan-binding protein family, the full-length WF-HABP protein. More specifically, the present invention relates to the discovery, identification and characterization of nucleotides that encode full-length WF-HABP. The invention encompasses full-length WF-HABP polynucleotides; host cell expression systems; encompasses full-length WF-HABP polypeptides (including fragments, variants, derivatives and analogs thereof); encompasses full-length WF-HABP fusion proteins; antibodies encompasses full-length WF-HABP; agonists and antagonists encompasses full-length WF-HABP; and other compounds that modulate encompasses full-length WF-HABP gene expression or encompasses full-length WF-HABP activity; that can be used for diagnosis, drug screening, and treatment or prevention of disorders which include, but are not limited to, vascular disorders and conditions, congenital pain insensitivity, inflammation, ischemia, host defense dysfunction, immune surveillance dysfunction, neural disorders, arthritis, edema, multiple sclerosis, autoimmunity, immune dysfunction, cancers, metastasis, integumentary disorders, and allergy.